

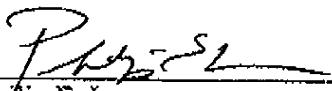
**REMARKS**

In a telephone conversation occurring on December 3, 2003, the Examiner indicated that pending claims 25-29, 31-35 and 39-44 were allowable (claims 1-13 were previously indicated as being allowable). By the present Amendment, Applicants represent previously withdrawn claims 36-38 and 45-47 (those claims were previously withdrawn in response to the Examiner's requirement to elect a species). Such claims are believed to be allowable by virtue of their dependence on one or more allowed claims. Applicants also by the present Amendment cancels claims 14-24 and 48-71, which claims were previously withdrawn in response to the Examiner's restriction requirement. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-13, 25-29 and 31-47 are in condition for allowance.

If a telephone conference would facilitate prosecution of this application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

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